

We claim:

1. A material application system comprising:  
  
a plurality of material application system components including at least a material application device for applying a material to a part and a supply of material for the application device, a wireless identification device, said wireless identification device being associated with at least one of said system components, and a sensor for receiving information from said wireless identification device.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said application device comprises a spray gun.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said components comprise a powder spray booth, a powder spray gun and a powder pump.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein said wireless identification device comprises an RFID device.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein said wireless identification device is associated with a wear item of the material application system.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein said wear part is selected from the group of a spray nozzle, a pump throat and a powder tube.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein said information includes part identification.
8. The system of claim 7 wherein said information includes original manufacturer information.
9. The system of claim 1 wherein said sensor is part of a hand held device.
10. An assembly comprising the combination of a wear item in a material application system and a wireless identification device comprising a circuit chip and an antenna, said device being associated with the wear item.
11. The assembly of claim 10 wherein said wireless identification device comprises an RFID device.

12. The assembly of claim 10 wherein said wear item is a spray gun nozzle.
13. The assembly of claim 10 wherein said device is affixed to or embedded in the wear item.
14. The assembly of claim 10 wherein the wear item is part of a powder spray gun or powder pump.
15. The assembly of claim 10 comprising a sensor for interrogating the device.
16. The assembly of claim 15 wherein said sensor is hand held.
17. A method for identifying parts of a material application system, comprising:
  - associating with the part a wireless identification device;
  - receiving information from said device, and
  - using said information as part of the operation or maintenance of the material application system.
18. The method of claim 17 comprising the step of:
  - associating an RFID device with the part.
19. The method of claim 17 comprising the step of:
  - using the information received as part of a maintenance or repair procedure.
20. The method of claim 17 wherein the part is a wear item or a system component.
21. A method for identifying parts in a container, comprising:
  - associating with each part in a container a wireless identification device;
  - receiving information from said device by using a hand held sensor, and

using said information to verify contents of the container without having to open the container.

22. A method for identifying parts of an assembled product, comprising:

associating with each of one or more parts of an assembled product a respective wireless identification device;

receiving information from each said wireless identification device, and

using said information to verify the assembled product has all required parts and that all parts in the product are correct, wherein the method is carried out without disassembly of the product.

23. The method of claim 22 comprising the step of receiving said information by positioning the assembled product in a stand having a sensor for reading the wireless devices.

24. A method for identifying parts of a material application system, comprising:

associating with one or more parts of a material application system a respective wireless identification device;

receiving information from said wireless devices using a handheld scan device,

said one or more parts including a spray booth, and using said information to identify the booth.